The present study has been completed under the supervision of Dr. Surinder Kumar, Professor of Economics & Dean, Faculty of Social Science, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak. I wish to express my sincere thanks and indebtedness to my esteemed supervisor for his valuable guidance, unflinching help, continuous encouragement and keen interest throughout the pursuit of this study. The guidance that I received from him in the form of healthy criticism and continuous impetus in carrying out this can not be acknowledged by mere words. It is only due to his sincere advice at every step that I could succeed in completing the present work.

I am extremely thankful to Prof. G.S. Bhalla, Professor Emeritus, CSR&D, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi for their cooperation in methodological issues and collection of the data. Indeed, it would not have been possible to carry out this study in such way without his able guidance, valuable suggestions and encouragement.

I am thankful to Professor A. S. Rana, Head, Department of Economics and other teachers of the Department for their co-operation. I would like to thanks Dr. Rajender Chaudhay, Reader, Department of Economics who were kind and generous enough to make valuable suggestions during the phase of compilation and completion of this work.
I express my thanks to Dr. J.S. Bedi, Senior Research Officer, IAMR, Narela, Dr. Anil Sharma, Chief Economist and Dr. Parmod Kumar, Junior Economist, NCEAR, New Delhi for their co-operation and encouragement.

I thank Mr. Subhash Bhardhaj and other staff at our Department Office for their tremendous support.

I am thankful to the staff of the library JNU, MDU, KUK, IIPA and IIFT for providing required materials and other facilities.

I am extremely thankful to my friends Rajesh, Dharmender Malik, Sachin Sharma, Kulwant Nehra, Jasbir Deswal, Sanjay Gautam, Tirath Ram and Narender Sharma as well as my seniors Dr. Surender Narwal and Dr. Sanjay Malik for their encouragement and co-operation.

I find no words how to express my appreciation for the sacrifice of my loving mother, who struggled throughout her life to realise her dreams for her son. Without her love and encouragement, it would not have been possible for me to come this far from a remote village. Words are just not enough to express my gratitude to her. I express my sincere appreciation of my father, brothers and other family members for their moral encouragement and providing me unflinching support during the period of my studies and research work.

Sunil Phougat